

Stanton. Private First Class Stanton was fatally wounded late last month in Taji, Iraq, when a roadside bomb exploded beneath his vehicle. He was only 19 years old.

In June 2005, after graduating from Coronado High School in Colorado Springs, he enlisted in the Army. At the time the improvised explosive device destroyed the humvee in which he was riding, had been in Iraq for 2 months.

Seth Stanton was a young man who, as his uncle noted, lived every minute of his life to the fullest. He was an outstanding student who was skipped all the way up to the 12th grade, ahead of his age, after being home schooled for many years.

And he loved off-roading in his prized Jeep Cherokee with its heavy-duty suspension and oversized tires rumbling across our state's rugged terrain. He even bragged to his friends about how four fellow service members told him one day "how illegal my Jeep is."

As a man, Seth Stanton had many opportunities ahead of him. But instead of choosing to attend college or join the workforce, Seth Stanton chose a different path: the U.S. Army. Private First Class Stanton knew that his Nation, and the people of Iraq, needed his service and support, and he bravely stepped forward and volunteered for this challenging duty.

Private First Class Stanton didn't choose to follow this path, as his grandmother Georgell noted, out of politics or economics or some other motive. He chose it because he knew in his heart it was the right thing to do: dedicate himself to a cause greater than his own.

The tragedy of a life of such promise going unrealized affects everyone in this body, and in this Nation, but not as deeply or personally as it will move his parents Stephen and Anna or the rest of his family. Every American mourns your loss with you, and Seth's courage and sacrifice will be honored always.

Chapter Five of the Book of Matthew chronicles that, in his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus tells us, "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God." I hope that this brings you solace in the coming days, with the knowledge that He holds Seth close, and blesses his character and sacrifice.

#### STAFF SERGEANT DAVID STAATS

Mr. President, I rise to call the Nation's attention to a service member whom we lost late last month in service to our country.

Army SSgt David Staats was killed in Taji, Iraq, when a roadside bomb detonated beneath his vehicle. Staff Sergeant Staats epitomized the spirit of service to his Nation. He was only a few weeks into his third tour in Iraq. He was a young man, only 30 years old, with his entire life ahead of him. He leaves behind his wife Meagan, his 8-year-old son Tyler, and stepdaughter, Katie.

He heard the call to serve his country early on, enlisting in the Army before he even graduated from high school in 1995. After his second tour, in which he was stationed in Kuwait and Iraq, he briefly left the service. But soldiering was in his blood, the core of who he was, and he reenlisted after only a year away from the Army.

In his service in Iraq, Staff Sergeant Staats was upholding the global values of human dignity, freedom and liberty. He did so not for glory or praise, but because he had absolute confidence in his values and his mission to protect those who cannot protect themselves.

Staff Sergeant Staats' mother said it best: "He was doing what he thought he should do."

David Staats was a loving son, husband and father, too. He treasured the time he spent with his son Tyler and his stepdaughter Katie, and was an adoring husband to his wife Meagan.

President Abraham Lincoln famously once said, "In the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years." The loss of David Staats was sudden, and tragic. It reminds each America of the gravity of that which we ask of our service members, and the brief nature of our time on this Earth.

But in his service to our Nation and his family, David Staats lived a life of honor, courage, character and distinction to which every American can look with respect and admiration.

To Meagan, Tyler, and Katie, to David's parents Roger and Wanda, and his sister Bethany, I hope that this knowledge can help ease the painful sorrow each of you feel. While your anguish from his loss may never fully pass, I hope that you can take comfort in the knowledge that David's service and sacrifice on behalf of each and every American will be forever honored by a humble and grateful Nation.

#### RETIREMENT OF DR. PHILIP ROYAL SHIPP, JR.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I am pleased to speak today to honor the career of Dr. Philip Royal Shipp, Jr., a devoted public servant who has served the Congress for nearly 30 years at the Congressional Research Service, CRS. During his tenure at the CRS, Dr. Shipp has served in several key management and leadership roles, demonstrating extraordinary levels of competence, intelligence, and intellectual creativity in each of these positions.

Most recently, Dr. Shipp has served as the Director of the Domestic Social Policy Division. The Domestic Social Policy Division offers the Congress research and analysis in many programs and policies that under the jurisdiction of the Senate Finance Committee, including the Medicare, Medicaid, and State Children's Health Insurance Programs, as well as Social Security, pensions, welfare, child welfare programs.

I have been honored to serve as chairman of the Finance Committee for 4

years and am pleased to continue my service as the ranking Republican on the committee. Analysts under Dr. Shipp's supervision have worked closely with my Finance Committee staff, briefing them on complex programs and policies, helping them in the drafting of legislation and participating in Senate Finance Committee hearings.

We Members of Congress simply could not do our work effectively without the support we receive from organizations like the Congressional Research Service. There is simply no other organization with the reputation and the credibility of CRS. The work provided by CRS is always first rate, oftentimes quantitative and impeccably nonpartisan. Dr. Shipp, throughout his career, has embodied these characteristics.

Dr. Shipp began his Federal service in 1964 as an economist with the Federal Reserve. He was subsequently a program analyst with the Office of Management and Budget and later the Acting Administrator of the Food and Nutrition Service. Dr. Shipp made significant contributions to the Food and Nutrition Service, including an expanded view of the public policy purposes of food assistance programs such as food stamps. He also was instrumental in establishing and expanding the agency's in-house capacity to analyze programs, study their effects, and estimate the impact of legislative and regulatory changes.

Dr. Shipp joined the Congressional Research Service in 1977 as a Senior Specialist in Social Legislation in the former Education and Public Welfare, EPW, Division. He spent a significant part of the next decade leading teams of CRS analysts in high-level, committee-requested, legislatively relevant research studies focused on health and income issues. Topics included health insurance for the uninsured, retirement income for an aging population, and work incentives in income support programs. Under Dr. Shipp's direction, CRS developed a framework and quantitative model to compare legislative options for a new retirement system for Federal workers; this model was used in the development of the Federal employee retirement system that is in place today. During this period, in 1984, Dr. Shipp also served as Executive Director of the Congressional Panel on Social Security Organization, which was charged with developing an organizational and management framework for an independent agency for Social Security. The panel's principal recommendations were reflected in the legislation that eventually created the independent Social Security Administration.

In 1989, Dr. Shipp became Associate Director of CRS for Research Planning and Coordination, where he guided efforts to evaluate and improve CRS services and operations and led several of the agency's first strategic management reviews. He returned to EPW as

Division Chief in 1994 and became head of the expanded Domestic Social Policy Division in 1999. As Assistant Director for Domestic Social Policy, the largest research division within CRS, Dr. Shipp emphasized the building of analytic capacities, with a special focus on empirical analysis, as a way to enhance CRS' legislative support to Congress. He was instrumental in building CRS capacities in all areas of domestic social policy, in particular health policy analysis, Social Security and disability analysis, homeland and border security, public health preparedness, and housing and welfare policy. He organized and staffed the division to respond to new challenges, in particular the heightened need for expertise in domestic intelligence and counterterrorism after the attacks of September 11, 2001. Dr. Shipp also conceived and implemented an initiative to enhance CRS' strong analytic work in issues associated with the aging of the population, by expanding the division's staff to include new analysts with expertise in specific relevant disciplines. Under Dr. Shipp's leadership, CRS also obtained and developed the capacity to use a micro-simulation model for analysis of the distributional impact of alternative policy options for Social Security reform.

I am informed that Dr. Shipp was an exceptional manager with a clear vision of how CRS should be of service to the Congress. He leaves a strong legacy that will have a profound effect on the Congress for years to come. I know that my colleagues join me in thanking him for his service and wishing him well as he embarks on new challenges ahead.

#### VERMONT COMPANY BRIDGES THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today I wish to tell my colleagues in the Senate about a family-owned telephone business in Vermont that has once again led the industry in customer service and technological advances. Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom has successfully delivered high-speed broadband Internet service capability by way of Digital Subscriber Line, DSL, technology to every single one of its customers something most of its competitors have found difficult, if not impossible, to do.

The beautiful rural and mountainous landscape that makes Vermont such a wonderful place to live has proven to be a stubborn barrier in delivering broadband access to every Vermonter. Moreover, as one of the country's most rural States, Vermont struggles to implement large broadband infrastructure investments that reach relatively small population densities. Yet in the Mad River Valley—where Mother Nature has deposited plenty of these beautiful yet stubborn barriers and people settled where they wanted to and not where the roads told them to—Waitsfield and Champlain Valley

Telecom found a way to ensure that their customers have an access ramp to the information super highway.

By making this significant investment in their own network, Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom has invested in the economic vitality of every household it serves. Broadband access is a necessity for the company looking to move to Vermont, for the student writing a research paper, or for the family doing research on an upcoming vacation. So much of our country's economy depends upon high-speed Internet access, and making this access available to every American will require more companies willing to follow the lead of Vermont's own Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom.

Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom is a growing company, but it remains independently owned and operated by the Haskin family, under the leadership of Gregg Haskin. My wife Marcelle and I are proud to call the Haskins close friends, and we are even prouder of the deep commitment they have to their community. We wish them continued success, and I hope that my friends in the Senate will take this story back to their home States and point to this company's model as a key factor toward bridging the digital divide.

#### IN HONOR OF BRUCE JAMES

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a Nevadan whose ingenuity and leadership has changed the way that government operates. Bruce James has served as Public Printer for 4 years, but the impact of his service will be felt indefinitely.

President Bush chose Bruce to head the Government Printing Office because of his extensive experience in the printing industry, beginning when Bruce was 11 years old and set up a basement print shop in Cleveland, OH. His lifetime of work as a printer and executive has been full of great success and accolades, and, combined with his inspiring commitment to public service, he has earned the respect of Nevadans and leaders and organizations around the world.

While businesses in this country have been rapidly transforming and changing to accommodate technology, many sectors of our government have fallen drastically behind. While it is easy to blame bureaucracy and the slow speed at which government generally operates, we must focus our work on keeping pace. That is exactly why Bruce James was ideal for the job of transitioning the Government Printing Office from a 19th century print shop mentality and reputation to a 21st century digital tool for keeping Americans informed.

Bruce has successfully developed and managed printing and publishing ventures driven by technology for more than 30 years. With the same leadership and zeal that he put into private sector enterprises for all those years,

Bruce was determined to turn the Government Printing Office into a state-of-the-art information machine by today's standards.

When Bruce took over the Government Printing Office, the agency had lost \$100 million over the last 5 years. By 2004, Bruce had turned devastating losses into an \$11 million gain. As a staunch fiscal conservative looking to make government as efficient as possible, I applaud Bruce's efforts and ingenuity in turning this agency upside down and making it run more like a business—a successful business. He did so with compassion for the employees, a determination to succeed, and the vision to make it happen.

This country is fortunate to have had Bruce at the helm of the Government Printing Office. He made the agency more fiscally responsible, and he also has made great progress in making government documents more accessible. By the end of 2008, nearly every Federal Government document published since our Nation was founded will be available online.

It is a remarkable achievement, especially considering how far Bruce had to bring the agency to reach this point. In the position for only 4 years, he set a standard for all government agencies today and in the future. When Bruce first spoke to the White House about taking the position, he told them he could not get this sort of transformation done in less than 3 years, and if it took him more than 5, he was not the right person for the job. Turns out he was the perfect person for the job.

As he prepares to complete his term as the Nation's 24th Public Printer, I want to thank Bruce James for his commitment to the job, his respect for the position, and his tremendous contributions to furthering the core mission of the Government Printing Office—keeping America informed.

Nevadans welcome you and Nora home with open arms and great pride for the work you have done. Thank you and God bless you.

#### HONORING SENATORIAL SERVICE

• Mrs. DOLE. Mr. President, it is an honor indeed to pay tribute to a number of fine individuals who I am fortunate to call not just my colleagues, but also dear friends: Senators Bill Frist, George Allen, Conrad Burns, Lincoln Chafee, Mike DeWine, Rick Santorum and Jim Talent.

#### BILL FRIST

One of the greatest losses to the Senate is the departure of our majority leader, Dr. Bill Frist. I first became acquainted with Bill when he called me during my time as president of the American Red Cross to say that he would travel to Africa with us to volunteer as a surgeon.

Back then, I immediately recognized Bill's intelligence, integrity and compassion for others. I saw how dedicated he was about sound policy—especially